

Remarks

An Information Disclosure Statement accompanies this paper.

In response to the written restriction requirement dated November 7, 2006, the applicant hereby elects Group I (claims drawn to a plastid transformation vector encoding merA and merB, plants transformed with it, a method of using it to produce, and a method of using it to detoxify mercury).

By this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 10, 26-28, and 32 have been amended and claims 38-40 have been canceled.

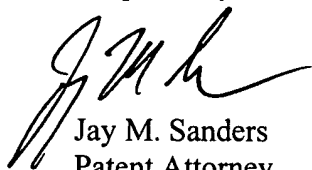
Claims 32 and 33 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim cannot depend from another multiple dependent claim. Claim 32 has been amended to be dependent only on claim 29.

Claims 26-28 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim should refer to other claims in the alternative only. Claim 26 has been amended, and claims 27-28 are amended to depend only from claim 26.

Although it is believed that no fees are due in connection with this Election, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any such fees to Deposit Account 19-0065.

The applicant invites the Examiner to call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any of this response, or if the Examiner believes a telephonic interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments: Information Disclosure Statement; Form PTO/SB/08